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observed that further on in the interior the prevailing winds are more commonly either from the north or south, especially at the period of the inundations.

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2. *The River Beni.*—This great River has its origin in the springs which issue from the lofty ranges north-west of Cochabamba, forming part of the snowy Cordillera visible from the city of La Paz; the other rivers, also, of which I shall have here occasion to speak, have their sources in the same range.

The Beni waters the whole of the district of Mosetenes; it skirts the province of Moxos, leaving it to the east, and pursues its course till it unites with the Marmoré, and loses its name.

The extent of territory comprised in the map is about 200 leagues, situated, according to astronomical observations, between  $8^{\circ}$  and  $17^{\circ} 30'$  south latitude. In this range there seems to be nothing wanting to make it everything that man could desire for his abode. Here he may find every variety of hill, and vale, and plains, with abundant streams of running water. The vast and extensive levels along the banks of the rivers, but especially those which are watered by the Beni, offer the finest locality in the world for agricultural establishments, and for the maintenance of a numerous population. Its fertility may be seen in the extraordinary growth of the trees, and the innumerable plants which it spontaneously produces, affording sustenance and shelter to a prodigious variety of the animal creation. Amongst the beasts the most common are the tapir, the tiger, the leopard, six or seven sorts of monkeys, and several amphibious creatures. Amongst the feathered tribe may be enumerated the parrot, the caque (?), several kinds of turkeys, and a multitude of beautiful singing birds, easily tamed, such as the thrush, the whistler (silvador), and the maltico, as remarkable for its plumage as for the sweetness of its note.

It is not so easy to describe the many wild fruits, medicinal herbs, and aromatic gums which are to be met with here in the greatest abundance, inasmuch as they require in the first instance to be carefully examined by men of science; but there is not a doubt that such an examination of them would lead to many new and valuable discoveries amongst the vegetable productions of these regions.

The cacao is to be found wild in many places, in others it is cultivated; in either case it is superior to any brought to the city of La Paz. Tamarinds, the chirimoya (?), oranges and lemons, figs, the cotton-plant, the sugar-cane, pine-apples, and every sort

of garden fruit flourish here with very little attention. The plantain also is to be found in abundance—that divine fruit, of all the productions of nature one of the most useful to man!—From it he makes flour, bread, sugar, spirits, and vinegar; whether roasted or boiled, raw or dried in the sun, it is delicious; of it may be truly said, as of the manna of old, *ad quod quisque volebat convertabatur*.

The water of the rivers is in general of very good quality, and the quantity of fish in them is inexhaustible. The chief sorts are the sabalo (a sort of carp), the suche (?), the dorado (a large species of tench), the hava (?), the corvino (a large perch), and many others. For the most part the rivers are navigable, with a gentle current in the deeper parts. On the shores of every one of them gold is to be found. The climate is so mild and salubrious that it may be said truly there is none like it on this continent; as a proof of which, in the settlement of Guanay, where I am now writing, in a population of 240 souls there has not been a single death of man, woman, or child, in two years and five months. The pastures are admirably adapted for cattle, which are, accordingly, in great numbers; but sheep do not thrive so well on account of the heat.

The Indian inhabitants of the territory are, in the first place, the *Aymaristas* and *Quechuistas*, who live about the sources of the rivers Quetoto, Bogpi, Coroico, Challana, Tipuani, Mapiri, and in the province of Apolobamba. Farther down are found the *Lecos*, the *Mosetenes*, the *Maropas*, and, lastly, the *Paraguaras* Indians; of which, the first, the *Lecos*, are confined to the lands between the Mapiri and Guanay, and are but few in number, not amounting in all to more than sixty families, Christians and infidels. They have a language of their own. In appearance they are a stout strong race, of an olive complexion, well-behaved, orderly, hard-working, happy, not quarrelsome, nor superstitious, though, like all others, they have their faults.

The *Mosetenes* Indians principally occupy the better lands along the River Beni; they are also to be found on the Quetoto, the Bogpi, and the Maniaque. Some of them are known by the appellation of Muchanis, Inicuanis, and Chimaris; but the fact is, they are all of the Mosetenes nation, and only assume those names from the particular rivers near which they reside; they also have their own separate language. They are a well-conditioned race, frank and disinterested, and very friendly with strangers, very ingenious, and evince an extraordinary sagacity in discovering the medicinal qualities of plants, which they well know also how to administer in sickness with admirable success. Like the *Lecos*, they are peaceably disposed, and free from superstition. They maintain themselves by their labour, and on fish and game,

which they know how to catch with much dexterity. In all the settlements of the Mosetenes there may be about 140 families.

The *Maropas* Indians are commonly known by the name of *Reyesanos*, from their residence about *Reyes*, on the River *Beni*. This settlement of *Reyes* properly belongs to the province of *Moxos*, in which may be counted no less than thirteen different Indian tribes, each having a separate language. The *Maropas* were originally reduced by the Jesuits, since whose expulsion they have been considered under the superintendence of the Bishop of *Santa Cruz de la Sierra*. They are a warlike and proud race, but evince great ingenuity and aptness for many sorts of work; the cloths they manufacture are beautiful; they are very good carpenters; and they show a marked taste for music and painting, in which they were initiated by the Jesuit fathers.

The climate of the province of *Moxos*, where they reside, is very hot, and the air is infested day and night by millions of musquitoes. The water even is hot. There are several lakes in it, and it is subject to the inundations of the River *Marmoré*; the pastures however are excellent, and the cattle are abundant in them.

The *Pacaguaras* Indians reside on the shores of the *Beni*, below *Reyes*. They are a barbarous race, as yet unconverted. Wild and warlike, they go naked, and even the women wear nothing but a few leaves tied round the waist.

The River *Beni*, as has been before said, unites with the *Marmoré*, which takes thence the name of the *Madera*, and falls into the *Amazons*, whereby a communication is open with the *Atlantic*. Along the shores of these rivers it is believed that many barbarous nations reside, of whom as yet little can be said with any certainty; nor are we likely to know more of them till new expeditions of discovery are set on foot, and intelligent people shall go amongst them. The result of such undertakings would be of the greatest importance to these valuable countries, not only in tending to further the knowledge and increase of their productions, but in establishing an easy communication from them with *Europe* and with the rest of the world.

The best part of *Peru* is as yet, it may be said, unknown. The riches it contains are immense; but to secure and turn them to account will require energy and exertion, and some encouragement from our rulers.\*

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[\* The Bolivian Government is now extending this encouragement, offering grants of land to adventurers, and considerable premiums for the establishment of steam-navigation on the rivers above described.]

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